

Remarks

Claims 1-11 and 18-21 are now pending in this application. Applicants have cancelled claims 12-17 to clarify the present invention. Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application.

The Examiner has allowed claims 1-11 and 18-22. Since Applicants have cancelled claims 12-17, only claims that the Examiner has allowed are now pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 98/14644 to Fornell et al. This rejection is no longer relevant since claims 12-17 are no longer pending. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that this case is now in condition for allowance and request favorable reconsideration of this case and early issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

If an interview would advance the prosecution of this case, Applicants urge the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to charge fee insufficiency and credit overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 22-0261.

Respectfully submitted,

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